

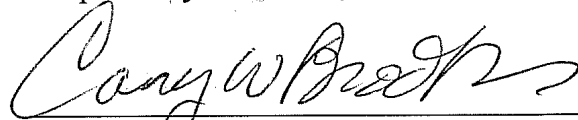
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is Applicant's response to the Board of Appeals Decision mailed November 13, 2009. The Board Decision reversed the rejection of claims 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 44 and 45 on prior art grounds (note to self: include claim 3). But the Board entered a new ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph with respect to claim 3. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 3 in a manner which addresses and renders moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 entered by the Board. Claim 1 now recites, inter alia, "wherein the mixture consists essentially of 95% N₂ and 5%H₂." The amendment is believed to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 and notice of allowance of independent claim 1 as amended is respectfully requested.

Applicant has also rewritten claims 4, 8, 22, 44 and 45 in independent form which is believed to place those claims in condition for allowance. Applicant has also amended the dependency of remaining claims to depend from what is believed to be an allowable claim. Notice of Allowance of the claims now remaining in the case is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to authorize action necessary to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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